cleared during current financial year progressively.

V.P.T.'s in Gujarat

3252. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in Gujarat provided with village Public Telephones and total number of villages without public telephones as on date;

(b) how many villages in the State are likely to be provided Public Telephones during 1999-2000; and

(c) by when rest of the villages of the State will be provided with public telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 13,923 villages have been provided with Public Telephone facility and 4,202 villages are without Public Telephone facility in Gujarat as on 1.4.2000.

(b) During 1999-2000, Public Telephone facility was not provided in any village as the remaining villages are to be covered by a private operator who is yet to start service.

(c) All the remaining 4,202 villages will be provided with Public Telephone facility by March, 2002 progressively.

Release of commemorative stamp in the name of Kittur Rani Chennamma

3253. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many stamps and coins were brought out during 1999-2000 in commemoration of various personalities;

(b) whether Karnataka Government had requested to bring out stamps and coins in commemoration of Kittur Rani Chennamma;

(c) if so, the action, if any, taken in this regard; and